



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
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# **News Release**

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## **Federal Health Care Fraud Charges Filed**

Minneapolis - Indadeeq Omar of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, was arrested earlier today on federal health care fraud charges. She made her initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis this afternoon. The charges against Omar, age 44, were levied in a forty-count Indictment that was unsealed following her arrest. Those charges include one count of conspiring to commit health care fraud, twelve counts of health care fraud, one count of conspiring to commit money laundering, nineteen counts of concealment of money laundering, and seven counts of promoting money laundering.

According to the Indictment, Omar and her husband, Mohamed Essa, owned and operated Global Interpreter Corporation ("Global"). Global contracted with Medica, a Minnesota-based health maintenance organization, to provide translation services to organization members who needed that assistance when receiving health care. From January of 2001 to December of 2004, however, Omar, her husband, and Tou Chaiker Vang, allegedly conspired to execute a scheme to defraud Medica by submitting claims for translation services not provided.

Vang, a Medica employee, allegedly provided Global with Medica member information and dates of medical visits by members, so false claims for translation services could then be submitted with dates that corresponded with the dates of those visits. The Indictment states that Omar and her husband also caused Global to submit claims for translation services for dates on which Medica members did not have medical visits. Then, Omar, her husband, and Vang caused other false documents to be prepared in an attempt to justify the fraudulent claims and conceal the scheme itself.

Vang allegedly was compensated for his part in the conspiracy through checks from the Global company, paid to him by Omar. Vang negotiated those checks at various financial institutions.

In late 2004, when Medica questioned Omar and her husband about the claims, they allegedly refused to provide documentation in support of those claims. Through this scheme, Omar, her husband, and Vang allegedly defrauded Medica of approximately \$1.5 million.

The Indictment also alleges that between January of 2001 and October 11, 2004, Omar, her husband, and Vang conspired to commit money laundering by conducting financial transactions with the proceeds from the fraud scheme in an attempt to conceal the true source and nature of those funds. Specifically, the Indictment states, Omar prepared Global checks listing fictitious interpreters as payees. Then, Omar and her husband allegedly negotiated those checks for cash, depositing that cash in accounts over which they had control, including accounts in the names of their children. After making those deposits, Omar and her husband allegedly transferred funds between accounts and ultimately used the funds to purchase various assets. The Indictment states Omar and her husband also provided a number of those checks to Vang to promote the scheme to defraud.

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Furthermore, the Indictment states that Omar and her husband knowingly engaged in substantive acts of concealment money laundering. Omar, her husband, and Vang also allegedly engaged in promotion money laundering.

If convicted, Omar faces a maximum potential penalty of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for conspiracy to commit health care fraud, ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count of health care fraud, and twenty years in prison and a \$500,000 fine on each count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, concealment money laundering, and promotion money laundering. Any sentence, however, will be imposed by a judge.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division; and Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank J. Magill.

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An Indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.